

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/998,731

Examiner

Joseph S. Del Sole

Applicant(s)

MILLER, LESTER D.

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Applicant's submission of 12/10/03 and the phone interview of 2/25/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/10/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/25/04
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James J. Dottavio on 2/25/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

the claims are replaced by the following listing:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing fiberglass-reinforced panels, comprising:

a plurality of molds for receiving the components of the panels;

a spraying apparatus for applying an exterior coat for said panels;

an applicator mechanism for applying resin and fiberglass to said panels;

a guide mechanism for guiding the molds through said spraying apparatus and applicator mechanism; and

a drive mechanism for independently driving individuals individual ones of said plurality of molds.

Claim 2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein drive mechanism is comprised of a plurality of drive rollers.

Claim 3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said molds each comprise an elongate support surface, having an upper finished surface, and a lower sub-frame, said

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lower sub-frame including a horizontally projecting, longitudinally extending drive surface, whereby said drive rollers engage said drive surface.

Claim 4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said lower sub-frame includes at least one longitudinally extending I-beam, and said lower drive surface is provided by a lower surface thereof.

Claim 5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said drive rollers are motor driven.

Claim 6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said drive rollers are driven by variable speed motors.

Claim 7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein each said variable speed motor is individually controllable.

Claim 8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said guide mechanism is comprised of a plurality of guide rollers.

Claim 9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said guide rollers comprise a first plurality of rollers, each having a rotational axis along a horizontal axis, to guide said molds in a horizontal sense.

Claim 10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said molds each comprise an elongate support surface, having an upper finished surface, and a lower sub-frame, said lower sub-frame including horizontally projecting, longitudinally extending first reference surfaces, whereby said first plurality of rollers engage said first reference surfaces.

Claim 11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said guide rollers further comprise a second plurality of rollers, each having a rotational axis along a vertical axis, to guide said molds in a lateral sense.

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Claim 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said molds further comprise vertically projecting, longitudinally extending second reference surfaces, whereby said second plurality of rollers engage said second reference surfaces.

Claim 13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said lower sub-frame comprises I-beam members extending longitudinally below said elongate support surface and adjacent to lateral side edges thereof, said first reference surface being defined by a lower section of said I-beam, and said second reference surfaces being defined by exterior channels formed by said I-beams.

Claim 14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said lower sub-frame further includes a longitudinally extending central I-beam, and a lower surface of said central I-beam provides a drive surface.

Claim 15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said drive mechanism is comprised of drive rollers positioned beneath said central I-beam, drivingly engaging said drive surface.

Claim 16. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said spraying apparatus flanks said guide mechanism, whereby said molds are driven relative to, and through, said spraying apparatus.

Claim 17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an enclosure surrounding said spraying apparatus.

Claim 18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said enclosure further includes a ventilation system to vent fumes within said enclosure.

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Claim 19. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising longitudinally extending oven, extending from said enclosure, whereby said molds, after passing through said spraying apparatus, are driven through said oven.

Claim 20. (original) An apparatus for manufacturing fiberglass-reinforced panel, comprising:

- a plurality of molds for receiving the components of the panels;
- a spraying apparatus for applying an exterior coat for said panels;
- an applicator mechanism for applying resin and fiberglass to said panels;
- a guide mechanism for guiding the molds through said spraying apparatus and applicator mechanism; and

- an enclosure surrounding said spraying apparatus and applicator mechanism.

Claim 21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said enclosure further includes a ventilation system to vent fumes within said enclosure.

Claim 22. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said enclosure is defined as a curing oven intermediate said spraying apparatus and applicator mechanism.

Claim 23 (original) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising an operator viewing station, for viewing moving molds within said enclosure, from a position exterior of said enclosure.

Claim 24.(original) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising an operator enclosed area, downstream of said applicator mechanism.

Claim 25. (original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said operator enclosed area is down-drafted to improve the air quality within the operator enclosed area.

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Claim 26. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising drive mechanism comprised of a plurality of drive rollers, to drive individual molds through said enclosure.

Claim 27 (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said molds each comprise an elongate support surface, having an upper finished surface, and a lower sub-frame, said lower sub-frame including a horizontally projecting, longitudinally extending drive surface, whereby said drive rollers engage said drive surface.

Claim 28. (original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said lower sub frame includes at least one longitudinally extending I-beam, and said lower surface is provided by a lower surface thereof.

Claim 29. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said drive rollers are motor driven.

Claim 30. (original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said drive rollers are driven by variable speed motors.

Claim 31. (original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein each said variable speed motor is individually controllable.

Claim 32. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said guide mechanism is comprised of a plurality of guide rollers.

Claim 33. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said guide rollers comprise a first plurality of rollers, each having a rotational axis along a horizontal axis, to guide said molds in a horizontal sense.

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Claim 34. (original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said guide rollers further comprise a second plurality of rollers, each having a rotational axis along a vertical axis, to guide said molds in a lateral sense.

Claim 35. (original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said molds each comprise an elongate support surface, having an upper finished surface, and a lower sub-frame comprised of an I-beam structure, comprising I-beam members extending longitudinally below said elongate support surface and adjacent to lateral side edges thereof, whereby said first plurality of rollers are profiled to contact a lower section of said I-beam, and said second plurality of rollers flank said I-beams, with rollers positioned within and engaging, exterior channels formed by said I-beams.

Claim 36. (original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said lower sub-frame further includes a longitudinally extending central I-beam, and a lower surface of said central I-beam provides a drive surface.

Claim 37. (original) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising a drive mechanism comprised of drive rollers positioned beneath said central I-beam, drivingly engaging said drive surface.

Claims 38-55. (canceled)

2. The amendments to the specification will be entered as set forth in the amendment of 12/10/2003.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the inventions of claims 1-37 as set forth in the Office action of 8/13/03.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

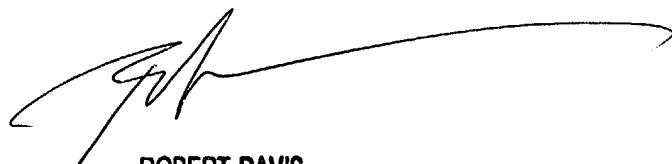
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Del Sole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wanda Walker, can be reached at (571) 272-1151. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for both non-after finals and for after finals.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from the either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on the access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph S. Del Sole

J.S.D.
February 25, 2004



ROBERT DAVIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300-170

2/27/04